

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE  
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABILITY  
THE SHERATON DOWNTOWN HOTEL  
623 UNION STREET  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
February 14, 2006  
Suite 6**

**Members Present:**

Mr. John Arriola  
Mr. Robert Brandon  
Dr. Sun-Hwan Chu  
Ms. Diane Cornell  
Ms. Deborah Cunningham  
Ms. Bettie Davis  
Ms. Judy Eads  
Mr. William Edington (for Wanda Willis)  
Mr. Shelburne Ferguson, Jr.  
Mr. John Fisher  
Mr. Jerry Hill  
Ms. Bonnie J. Howard  
Mr. William Johnson  
Mr. Judson Palmer  
Mr. Leonard Price  
Ms. Ruby Stewman  
Ms. Elizabeth Stovall  
Ms. Jacqueline Talley  
Mr. Donald Woodlee

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Lois DeBerry  
Ms. Tam Gordon  
Ms. Deborah Neill  
Sen. Curtis Person  
Ms. Wanda Willis

Pam Hayden-Wood, Office of the Attorney General, was also present.

Chair Howard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll was called, and attendance is listed above.

**PROPOSED STATE FUNDING FORMULAS**

Opportunity was given to all area agency directors, including those who had not previously provided written comments, to present comments on the proposed state funding formula.

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2005 MINUTES**

Chair Howard asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the Minutes of the November 2005 meeting.

**John Fisher pointed out a change to the wording at the bottom of page 5. The new sentence should read as follows. The dollar amount proposed reflects that 38% of the available state funds for senior centers would be used as the base amount.**

**Ruby Stewman moved approval of the minutes as recorded. The motion was seconded by Dr. Chu and passed.**

## **STAFF CHANGES**

Adrian Wheeler, State Ombudsman, retired. Pat Smith, Administrative Support Supervisor, retired. Ann Thompson, Statewide Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver Nurse, transferred to the Health Department. Linda Darnell has been hired to fill the nurse vacancy. Jackie Bruce has joined the Quality Assurance Department. Belinda Bruns, from the First TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability, has joined the TCAD in the planning department and will be the coordinator of the Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant.

## **HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES**

Margaret Rose presented data on the home and community based services program. To date, cumulative enrollment is 747 enrollees; current enrollment is 635. The charts reflected growth in enrollment with an increase of approximately 100 enrollees every two months. A separate chart reflected numbers served and was broken down by older persons and other adults with disabilities. During the last legislative session, a joint marketing plan between TennCare and TCAD was submitted and approved by a group of legislators representing the House and the Senate. TCAD is in the process of visiting all AAAD's to review and develop an action plan to increase enrollment in the waiver. TennCare is in the process of revising the Pre-admission Evaluation (PAE) tool which is used to determine eligibility based on functional ability.

## **AUDITING COMMITTEE**

John Arriola, Chair of the Auditing Committee, stated that in accordance with a new state law, Chair Howard appointed the Committee at the November meeting. The first meeting of the Auditing Committee was held February 13<sup>th</sup>. With staff from the state auditing division of the Comptroller's office, the Committee learned that a Charter must be developed and approved by the Commission and submitted to the Comptroller's office by June 30, 2006. Mr. Arriola said the staff from the state audit had high regard for the Commission and are willing to work with TCAD in developing the charter. The purpose of the charter is to assist the board and management to 'assess risk' of fraud, waste, and abuse to do follow up on findings, especially if problems are re-occurring.

Having a Committee will assist in following through with actions addressing the findings. Mr. Arriola stated that with the Commission's guidance, the Audit Committee will meet with management to review and follow-up on the state audit findings. The law requiring an active Audit Committee currently applies to Commissions, Departments, and Boards.

## **WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING (WHCOA)**

Mr. Arriola, delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, reported on the event held in Washington, DC, December 6, 2005. He reviewed the list of recommendations compiled by all the states in the country. He summarized a report by Mark McClellan, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), stating the agency

is prevention-oriented and patient-centered. It was determined that changes are being made at the federal level on how to deal with older Americans as they age, in relation to promoting independence and ensuring program accountability. Ms. Deborah Cunningham expressed appreciation for Mr. Arriola's remarks and stated that she was encouraged about programs for older persons and other adults with disabilities.

## **VISTA PROGRAM – LUCY UTT**

Lucy Utt presented an overview of a grant being compiled to be submitted for funding for the Volunteers in Service to America program (VISTA). The statewide program will recruit and train volunteers that will be used to assist with activities of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability network including SHIP, long term care, and ombudsman, public guardianship, etc.

TCAD staff will be convening a statewide Senior Center Workshop, March 29-31, to be held at the Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville, TN. The focus for the meeting will be future directions for senior centers. Mr. Ferguson remarked that Lucy's report was highly technical, and that he appreciated her approach in dealing with Medicaid Part D and other issues.

## **PARTNERING WITH THE TN DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (TDMHDD) OLDER ADULT PROJECTS**

Jackie Talley shared information with the Commission about what they are doing to expand services to older adults with physical as well as mental issues. Other presenters included: Mary Ross-Watkins, Centerstone CMHC, Inc.; Shirley McGowan, Frayser CMHC; Kitty Pitini, Frontier Health, Inc.; Robert Edmonds, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System; and Jill Wishart, Frontier Health, Inc.

## **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

Chair Howard appointed the following Commission members to serve on the Area Plan Review Committee: Bob Brandon, Chair; Elizabeth Stovall, Judson Palmer, John Arriola, Leonard Price, and Deborah Cunningham. The Committee will meet before the May meeting.

Chair Howard appointed a Nominating Committee as follows: John Fisher, Chair; Ruby H. Stewman; Donald Woodlee; and Robert W. Brandon. The Committee will report on nominations for officers and executive Committee members for consideration by the Commission membership at the meeting on May 9, 2006. The new Chair will take office at the August, 2006, meeting of the Commission.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Kathy Zamata reported that five quality assurance visits to Area Agencies have been completed, and the other four were being planned in the near future. Quality assurance (QA) reports and recommendations are compiled for each area agency, and plans for improvements/corrections are jointly developed by AAAD and TCAD staff.

## BUDGET

Perry Register reported that TCAD staff submitted the annual budget last October. Improvement request included \$250,000 for senior centers and \$900,000 for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Budget office staff requested additional information and had lots of questions during the staff budget hearing. TCAD is pleased to announce that the budget by the Governor included \$250,000 for senior centers and \$800,000 for HCBS. The budgets for the AAAD's area plans will be reviewed at the May meeting. The Commission applauded on hearing the budget improvements being proposed in the Governor's budget. Mr. Register stated the Executive Director, Nancy Peace, deserved praise for her efforts in leading the request for the funding and all her hard work and dedication to improving the lives of older adults and other adults with disabilities.

## STATE FUNDING FORMULA COMMITTEE

During lunch, the State Funding Formula Committee members met. During the Commission meeting and following lunch, John Fisher, Chair of the State Funding Formula Committee, presented a background of the Committee's activities to the Commission. The state rule for the Commission requires that the formulas be reviewed often by the State Unit on Aging and the Commission, and the last review was in 2001. The goal is to have the State Funding Formula reviewed/approved at the same time as the Federal Funding Formula. The three goals of the Committee were to: 1) be fair to all AAAD's; 2) comply with the most recent census population data, and 3) address the continued use of the outdated \$4,000 per county base being used for senior centers. After much discussion, the Committee agreed to ask for an increase in state budget for senior centers and wanted to be optimistic that the request for \$200,000 increase would be granted, and the Governor's proposed budget includes an increase of \$250,000 for senior centers. This proposed amount would ensure that no senior center would receive a cut in senior center funding even though there has been a greater increase in the number of older persons residing in the eastern part of the state.

Service providers and area agencies have had an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes made by the Commission's State Funding Formula Committee to the existing funding formula. The Committee met at lunch to further discuss verbal comments made by AAAD's in attendance during the morning meeting of the Commission and to continue discussion about the written comments from service providers and AAAD's. The Committee decided to make no changes to the recommendations that were presented and passed at the last meeting. Mr. Fisher added that any change made to the existing funding formula would require a public hearing before the May meeting. **Chair Howard asked for a roll call vote to proceed with the process of reviewing the Funding Formula for State Funding. Don Woodlee seconded the motion. The roll count vote is shown below and the motion carried.**

<u>Commission Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
*John Arriola			
Robert Brandon	X		
Sun-Hwan Chu	X		
Diane Cornell	X		
Deborah Cunningham	X		
Bettie Davis		X	

<u>Shelburne Ferguson</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>John Fisher</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Bonnie Howard</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>William Johnson</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Judson Palmer</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Leonard Price</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Jerry Hill</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Ruby Stewman</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Elizabeth Stovall</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Donald Woodlee</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>*Tam Gordon</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Judy Eads</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>*Deborah Neill</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Jackie Talley</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>William Edington for Wanda Willis</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
*Senator Curtis Person	Ex officio		
*Rep. Lois DeBerry	Ex officio		
*Members Absent			

## OLD BUSINESS

Don Woodlee reiterated that at the previous meeting, it was discussed that the Executive Director, Nancy Peace, would compile a performance report for the Commission's review. The report was passed out for all attendees to review. **Bob Brandon made a motion to accept the report and thank Ms. Peace and staff for outstanding accomplishments in the past year. John Fisher seconded the motion and it was passed. As an addendum, Ms. Howard suggested that many thanks be given to Nancy Peace.** Ms. Peace responded that it takes the entire team to make a difference -- the staff, AAAD's, and the Commission. There was a round of applause for Ms. Peace.

## AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Nancy Peace introduced Jim McConnell, Portland, Oregon, who is the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) consultant focused on long term care system design. Mr. McConnell said there are three major components of the ADRC: 1) coordination of available resources; 2) create public awareness of services in the community; and 3) improve accessibility for participants and caregivers. He said that people should be able to reach the ADRC through the Web site, by telephone, or in person. He said many decisions had not yet been made for the State of Tennessee. Other primary partners are TennCare, DHS, and the Governor's staff. After the pilot sites are fully operational, the ADRC plans to move to a statewide system. Mr. McConnell gave an overview of the programs that Oregon has undertaken to improve services to seniors. Discussion was held on adult family homes which includes Medicaid paying a family, neighbor, etc. who is willing to take care of an older person or adult with disabilities in their home. He mentioned relative adult care homes whereby the spouse could get paid with state funds to stay home and care for a loved one. It is much cheaper for the state to pay a spouse or family member than a nursing home. He added that nursing homes are part of the continuum and should be embraced as part of the continuum of care but other alternatives should be available to provide a choice rather than having to put a family member in a

nursing home. It's the quality of life that matters. Representative Joe Armstrong invited Jim McConnell and Nancy Peace to the Legislature to talk about the ADRC. His presentation included a PowerPoint presentation and dialogue with the state legislators attending the House Health and Human Resources Committee meeting. Mr. McConnell said there was a need for providing options for care. It was pointed out that savings would be realized if a variety of home and community based services are made available.

## TN4A REPORT

Aaron Bradley, President of the Tennessee Association for Area Agencies on Aging and Disability, was very pleased with the leadership and vision provided by the Commission. In reference to Mr. McConnell's presentation, he remarked that February 14<sup>th</sup> should be marked on the calendar as the day that everyone had an opportunity to realize a vision of what long term care services should be. Area Agency Directors are excited about moving in the direction of having a comprehensive long term care system. Aaron recognized that Mr. McConnell as a leader in the field of long term care.

- TCAD Annual / Legislative Report  
Mr. Bradley said the report is about 90% complete, and it will be forwarded to TCAD to be finalized and published.
- Implementation of Beacon and SAMS 2000  
AAAD's are supportive of TCAD's efforts to evaluate how Beacon and SAMS 2000 is being utilized at the AAAD level and the plan for TCAD staff to schedule technical assistance visits to the field.
- Proposed State Funding Formula  
Seven AAADs accept the proposed formula. East Tennessee suggested that the \$4K base for senior centers be retained. The Aging Commission of the Mid South recommends the state formula include the factors that are in the OAA funding formula.
- Proposed State Funding for FY 2007  
He commended the Executive Director for her advocacy efforts with the Governor's office to secure additional state funding for Options HCBS and Senior Center services. He added that it has been over 10 years since any Governor has included improvements for aging services through the Commission on Aging and Disability network.
- Choices for Care Efforts  
The AAAD's are working with TCAD, AARP, and other organizations across the state to promote the Choices for Care Campaign and are also working in support of the April 5, 2006, Choices for Care Rally in Nashville to be held at the State Capitol.

## REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nancy Peace reported the activities of the TCAD staff. She said staff are proceeding with promulgating rules with Guardianship and Long Term Care Ombudsman. Other items reported:

- TCAD staff are updating the Medicaid Waiver Policy Manual.
- A representative from the AOA regional office is visiting the TCAD office in the near future to provide technical assistance in a number of program areas.

- The ADRC Policy Council will meet February 16 and the Advisory Board is scheduled to meet February 16.
- TCAD staff have developed a Request for Proposal to recruit an outside Evaluator for the ADRC project.

A written report listing activities (i.e., internal activities, external activities, ongoing activities, advocacy and policy activities, aging network activities, and future activities) was provided to Commission members.

## NEW BUSINESS

A comment was made by Commission member, Shelburne Ferguson, that he would like to see a more comprehensive report covering the bigger picture, and not a report on the day-to-day activities of the staff. He recommended that it would be helpful to have a strategic plan including a vision for growth, and he volunteered to assist in developing the strategic planning. Ms. Peace suggested that state staff, area agency staff, commission members, and others could plan a retreat or meeting to develop the TCAD Strategic Plan.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, Chair Howard adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 9, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. CST at the Sheraton Hotel Downtown, Nashville, TN.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy C. Peace  
Recording Secretary  
Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability